

Obtaining a Santa Clara County Obituary

The newspaper of record for funeral notices and obituaries for persons who died in Santa Clara County is the *San Jose Mercury News* and its predecessor newspapers, the *San Jose Mercury Herald* and the *San Jose News*. Santa Clara City Library's microfilm holdings of the *SJMN* begin with 1987.

Following are options for obtaining an obituary (and/or a death certificate):

- Access the Silicon Valley Library System Reference Center Web site: <http://obit.systemref.org>; fill out the form to request an obituary or a death notice. A fee is charged.
- Using your local library's Interlibrary Loan service, order microfilm of the *San Jose Mercury* and other California newspapers (some back to 1850) for the date needed from the California State Library, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001.
- Write to the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, c/o Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051, Attention: Research Consultant; include a self-addressed stamped envelope. The Society recommends that requestors fill out the application at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/forms/researchform.htm>, or for a PDF file: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/main/service.html>. For pre-1987 obituaries, consultants must travel to San Jose—thus additional time may be needed to fill the request. A fee is charged.
- If local, go to the San Jose Public Library to search the microfilm collection yourself.
- To obtain a death certificate, contact the Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder's Office at (408) 299-2481; information also is available at: <http://www.clerkrecorder.org>.